

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 10 has been added.

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Staber. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*, "the pins extending from a bottom surface of the housing; a socket coupled to a further input twisted wire pair and a further output twisted wire pair, the socket mating with the housing and receiving the pins to establish an electrical connection between the input twisted wire pair and the further input twisted wire pair and established electrical connection between the output twisted wire pair and the further output twisted wire pair." Staber fails to teach pins mating with a socket as recited in claim 1. In applying Staber, the Examiner apparently construed terminals 40 as corresponding to the claimed pins. Terminals 40, however, do not engage a socket or extend from a bottom surface of a housing. Thus, Staber fails to teach all the elements of claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Staber. Claims 3-6 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Staber for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1.

Further, claim 5 recites "said wire interface a modular outlet formed in a sidewall of the housing, the housing having four sidewalls containing the protection component; said input twisted wire pair and said output twisted wire pair connected to a modular plug matable with said modular outlet." An exemplary embodiment of claim 5 is illustrated in Applicants' Figure 4. Staber does teach a modular jack 82 and plug 84, but these components are not in a sidewall of a housing containing the protection component. In Staber, the protection component 34 is not contained in a housing having a modular outlet in a sidewall thereof. Thus, Staber cannot anticipate claim 5.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Staber in view of Wilken. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

030199 (B.I.L.-0107)

Wilken was relied upon for disclosing certain types of protection components, but fails to cure the deficiencies of Staber discussed above with reference to claim 1. In particular, Wilken fails to teach the housing and socket having pins as recited in claim 1. Claims 7-9 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Staber in view of Wilken for at least the reasons advance with reference to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

David A. Fox
Registration No. 38,807
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115
Customer No. 36192

Date: June 29, 2007

030199 (BLL-0107)

5